

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. (Original) A method comprising:  
storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment; and  
updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment.
2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein updating comprises:  
acquiring a lock for the portion of the configuration in a first node in the distributed environment;  
modifying the portion of the configuration;  
invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment; and  
releasing the lock.
3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:  
updating a database to reflect modifications of a portion of the configuration; and  
blocking reads of the configuration during the updating.
4. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:  
notifying nodes in the distributed environment of the updated configuration data.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein the lock is cluster wide.
6. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:  
writing changes to a shared database.
7. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein modifying comprises:  
changing a configuration object in a branch of a tree structure.
8. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein invalidating comprises:  
sending a cache invalidation event to another node in the cluster.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein invalidating comprises:  
sending a message to a plurality of Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE) nodes.
10. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein updating further comprises:  
notifying registered listeners that the configuration has been changed.
11. (Original) A system comprising:  
a plurality of nodes each having a instance of a configuration manager to maintain  
consistent storage of a configuration across the nodes without passing configuration  
modifications between the nodes;  
a locking server shared by the plurality of nodes to coordinate access to the  
configuration; and  
a database management system to provide an interface with a shared relational  
database, the database to store the configuration.
12. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuring manager comprises:  
a configuration cache; and  
a configuration handler.
13. (Original) The system of Claim 12 wherein the configuration manager further  
comprises:  
a persistency handler.
14. (Original) The system of Claim 11 further comprising:  
a configuration handler to permit access to and modification of the configuration.
15. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuration comprises:  
a plurality of persistent objects holding information about a Java 2 enterprise  
edition cluster.
16. (Original) The system of Claim 15 wherein some of the persistent objects are  
cacheable.

17. (Original) The system of Claim 11 wherein the configuration manager comprises:  
a change event listener to notify registered components of configuration change events.
18. (Original) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:  
storing a configuration for a distributed environment in a central storage of the distributed environment; and  
updating a portion of the configuration in the distributed environment.
19. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 18 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:  
acquiring a lock for the portion of the configuration in a first node in the distributed environment;  
modifying the portion of the configuration;  
invalidating a representation of the portion of the configuration in the distributed environment; and  
releasing the lock.
20. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:  
updating a database to reflect modifications of a portion of the configuration; and  
blocking reads of the configuration during the updating.
21. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:  
notifying node in the distributed environment of the current configuration data.

22. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating further comprises:
- changing the configuration locally;
  - writing the changes to a shared database; and
  - committing the changes.
23. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein invalidating comprises:
- sending a cache invalidation event to another node in the cluster.
24. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 19 containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform the method wherein updating comprises:
- notifying registered listeners that the configuration has been changed.
25. (Original) A system comprising:
- means for maintaining consistent storage of configuration information in a distributed environment;
  - means for controlling access to the configuration information; and
  - means for interfacing with a relational database system to provide persistent storage of the configuration information.
26. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein the configuration information comprises:
- a plurality of persistent objects holding information about a Java 2 Enterprise Edition cluster.
27. (Original) The system of Claim 25 wherein the means for maintaining comprises:
- a configuration cache resident in each node of the distributed environment; and
  - a configuration handler resident in each node of the distributed environment.